

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1-4 and 6-15, added new claims 17 and 18 and canceled claims 5 and 16. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to the claims are supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter (see paragraphs [0022] and [0103] of publication No. US 2004/0059197A1). Applicant further respectively submits that the amended claims would not be properly rejected based upon the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-12 and 14-16 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Applicant's prior art admission, stating that Applicant's prior art admission teaches a connection assembly detachably connected to a main body of a dental apparatus for use in dental diagnosis and treatment, wherein the connection assembly has a communication means for sending to the main body information for driving said connection assembly upon connecting the instrument 101 to the main body of the apparatus, identification signals are actively output for individually identifying the instrument 101 to the main body of the apparatus from the identification signal output means 106 via the connection terminal 106e and by identification signal the main body of the apparatus specifies which instrument is connected to supply driving power, water air, etc. corresponding to the connected instrument.

In reply thereto, Applicant would like to point out to the Examiner that Applicant's admitted prior art is a description of JP 2002-35009. Included herewith is an attachment in tabular form illustrating the differences between Applicant's invention as claimed and Applicant's admitted prior art which is the apparatus of JP 2002-35009. In particular, Applicant would like to point out that in Applicant's invention, each connection assembly provides the functional information for driving the connection assembly so that it is not required to prepare the functional information for driving the connection assembly in the main body in advance. Furthermore, when the connection body is modified such that the rotation number is increased, etc., the functional information for driving the modified connection assembly is not required to be additionally stored in the main body.

In contrast to Applicant's invention, Applicant's admitted prior art does not teach such a structure that the connection assembly provides the functional information for driving to the main body. Namely, in Applicant's admitted prior art, it merely teaches a structure wherein

the identification information of the instrument body is provided to the main body. As a result, the main body is required to store in advance the functional information for driving each instrument body corresponding to the identification information of each instrument body.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's admitted prior art does not disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. As a result, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10-12, 14, 15, 17 and 18 are not anticipated by Applicant's admitted prior art.

The Examiner has rejected claims 6 and 9 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Applicant's admitted prior art, stating that Applicant's admitted prior art teaches the connection assembly as claimed, but does not disclose that the connection assembly includes a rechargeable battery; Applicant's admitted prior art also discloses conventional dental apparatuses that include rechargeable batteries as a self-driving source; and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a rechargeable battery in the connection assembly of Applicant's admitted prior art.

In reply thereto, Applicant would like to incorporate by reference his comments above concerning Applicant's invention and Applicant's admitted prior art. In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that there are significant other patentable differences between Applicant's invention and claims 6 and 9 which depend from claims 1 or 17. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's invention as claimed by claims 6 and 9 are not obvious over Applicant's admitted prior art.

Applicant also acknowledges the Examiner's statement that claim 13 contains allowable subject matter and could be put in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered as part of this Request for Continued Examination, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.

Applicant respectfully and retroactively requests a one month extension of time to respond to the Final Office Action (to file a Request for Continued Examination). Please charge the extension fee of \$120 to QUINN EMANUEL DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 50-4367.

Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this Amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to QUINN EMANUEL DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 50-4367.

Respectfully submitted,

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William L. Androlia

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